

The Examiner objected to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) as filed on August 23, 2000. Accordingly, the IDS as previously filed is being re-submitted herewith, including copies of all references cited in the objected IDS. Applicant does not know the exact relevant dates of the documents listed as AK - AO, however, each has a latest copyright date of 1999. Reference AP includes several articles having relevant dates between September 22, 1998 and August 23, 1999, as stated thereon.

Claims 1, 4-11 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,064,979 to Perkowski.

Perkowski generally discloses a method and system for providing product related information. Perkowski teaches a database for storing a URL in relation with a universal product number (UPN) or a manufacturer identification number (MIN). In operation a user provides a UPN, which is compared by the system with the stored MINs. If the product has been registered with the system and a URL has been linked to the UPN in the database, the system returns the linked URL(s). Otherwise the system returns the URL(s) linked with the MIN contained in the UPN, typically the URL for the home page of the manufacturer. The user can then visit the web pages identified by the provided URL(s) to obtain the desired information.

Contrary to what is stated in the rejection, Applicant respectfully asserts that Perkowski fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 18. For example, Perkowski fails to teach or suggest the limitation of transmitting a search query to the communication server as recited in claim 1, or of communicating product information and a search query to the communication server as recited in claim 18. Perkowski may teach transmitting product information to a communication server, but not also transmitting a search query. Rather the system disclosed in Perkowski automatically takes the received UPN, performs a lookup in the relational database and provides the linked URL(s), if any, to the user. The user then accesses the sites linked by the returned URL(s) to search for desired information. The present invention on the other hand performs the search for the user and provides results responsive to the query.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1 and 18, and all claims depending therefrom based at least on their dependency, are novel and non-obvious in view of Perkowski for at least the reasons given above.

Claims 1, 4-11 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,869,819 to Knowles et al.

Knowles generally discloses a web-based package routing, tracking and delivering system and method using URL-encoded bar code symbols on packages.

Contrary to what is stated in the rejection, Applicant respectfully asserts that Knowles fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 18. For example, Knowles fails to teach or suggest the limitation of transmitting a search query to the communication server as recited in claims 1 or of communicating product information and a search query to the communication server as recited in claim 18. In Knowles, URL-encoded bar symbols on products are read for the purpose of allowing the user to link to a specific site identified by the URL. The user then performs a search as desired. The present invention on the other hand performs the search for the user and provides results responsive to the query. Even in the disclosure cited by the Examiner, there is no teaching of transmitting a search query to a communication server.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1 and 14, and all claims depending therefrom based at least on their dependency, are novel and non-obvious in view of Knowles for at least the reasons given above.

Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Perkowski.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 12-13 are allowable over Perkowski based at least on their dependency from independent claim 1 and for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Regarding independent claim 14 and dependent claims 15-16, Applicant respectfully asserts that Perkowski fails to anticipate claim 14 for similar reasoning as above with respect to independent claim 1. In particular, Perkowski fails to teach or suggest the limitation of transmitting a search query to a communication server from the

PCD as recited in claim 14. Perkowski may teach transmitting a product code to the communication server, but not also transmitting a search query. Rather the system disclosed in Perkowski automatically takes the received UPN, performs a lookup in the relational database and provides the linked URL(s), if any, to the user. The user then accesses the sites linked by the returned URL(s) to search for desired information. The present invention on the other hand performs the search for the user and provides results responsive to the query.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 14 and all claims depending therefrom based at least on their dependency, are novel and non-obvious in view of Perkowski for at least the reasons given above.

Claims 2 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Knowles in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,433 to Holshouser.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2 and 22 are allowable over Knowles in view of Holshouser based at least on their dependency from independent claims 1 and 18, respectively, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 18.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Perkowski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,738 to Osaku et al.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 3 is allowable over Perkowski based at least on its dependency from independent claim 1 and for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Claims 17 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Knowles as modified by Holshouser, further in view of Perkowski.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 17 is allowable over Knowles in view of Holshouser, and further in view of Perkowski, based at least on its dependency from independent claim 14, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 14.

With respect to independent claim 23, Applicant respectfully asserts that Knowles fails to teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent claim 23. For

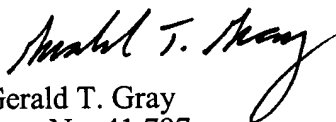
example, Knowles fails to teach or suggest the limitation of transmitting a search query to a communication server as recited in claim 23. Moreover, based on similar arguments presented above, none of the cited references (Knowles, Holshauser and Perkowski) disclose this limitation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 23 is novel and non-obvious in view of Knowles, Holshauser and Perkowski for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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